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Attorneys for Kyle Everett,
Chapter 7 Trustee

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

In re

BENJA INCORPORATED,

Debtor.

Case No. 20-30819-DM

Chapter 7

**APPLICATION FOR ORDER
AUTHORIZING EMPLOYMENT OF
PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR**

Pursuant to § 327 and Bankruptcy Rule 2014,¹ Kyle Everett (the “Trustee”), trustee in bankruptcy of the estate of the above-captioned Debtor, files this *Application for Order Authorizing Employment of Private Investigator* and in support thereof represents:

1. The Trustee is the duly appointed, qualified, and acting trustee in bankruptcy in this case.

2. The Trustee wishes to retain Coffino Investigations (“Proposed PI”) as his private investigator in connection with investigating the collectability of the estate’s potential claims against third parties. The Proposed PI is a small company with one principal, who is a licensed

¹ Unless specified otherwise, all chapter and code references are to the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101–1532. “Bankruptcy Rule” references are to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.

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1 private investigator, as well as a licensed attorney, as further explained in the accompanying
2 declaration of Michael Coffino.

3 3. The Trustee believes that retention of a private investigator is necessary and
4 wishes to retain the Proposed PI based on its expertise in private investigation services, as well
5 as the extensive legal background and expertise held by the Proposed PI's principal, Mr. Coffino.
6 Notwithstanding such extensive legal background and expertise, the Proposed PI would not
7 provide legal services to the estate, but rather would provide only private investigation services.
8 The Trustee has considered the facts in this case and determined that employing the Proposed PI
9 is in the best interests of the estate.

10 4. To the best of the Trustee's knowledge, the Proposed PI has no connection with
11 the Debtor, creditors, or any other party in interest, their respective attorneys and/or accountants,
12 the United States Trustee, or any person employed in the Office of the United States Trustee,
13 except as set forth in the concurrently filed declaration of Michael Coffino in support of this
14 application (the "Declaration"). The Proposed PI does not presently represent any interest
15 adverse to the Trustee or to the estate, except as set forth in the Declaration. The Proposed PI is
16 a disinterested person.

17 5. Subject to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the
18 Guidelines, and the rules and rulings of this Court, the Trustee proposes to pay the Proposed PI
19 its customary hourly rates in effect from time to time and to reimburse the Proposed PI for its
20 expenses according to its customary reimbursement policies. The Proposed PI's hourly rate is
21 \$150. Generally, the Proposed PI's rates are subject to change from time to time, but generally
22 not more than once per year. The Proposed PI has not shared or agreed to share compensation
23 with any entity.

24 6. The hourly rate charged by the Proposed PI is no less favorable than the rate
25 charged for non-court appointed services.
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7. The Proposed PI is in compliance with the *Guidelines for Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Professionals and Trustees* dated February 19, 2014. It does not charge for its word processing. Online research searches and services are charged at cost.

Based on the foregoing, the Trustee requests entry of an order authorizing the employment of Coffino Investigations as the bankruptcy estate's private investigator.

DATED: September 23, 2022

/s/ Kyle Everett
 Kyle Everett,
 Chapter 7 Trustee

DATED: September 23, 2022

FINESTONE HAYES LLP

/s/ Jennifer C. Hayes
Jennifer C. Hayes
Attorneys for Kyle Everett, Chapter 7 Trustee